

indirectly dependent on claim 73, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 97 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 80 of co-pending application 09/757,733. Applicants note that claim 97 has been cancelled and, consequently, respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

Finally, Applicants have noted that the Examiner has not considered 10 foreign patent documents and one publication because copies of these documents were allegedly not submitted in parent application 09/035,771 (the '771 application). Applicants kindly note that these references were in fact submitted in the '771 application, as evidenced by the attached copies of initialed Forms PTO 1449. Confirmation that the references have been considered in the present application is kindly requested. If the references are not available to the Examiner, Applicants will submit additional copies upon request.

For any and all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections have been addressed and overcome.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 97 has been cancelled.

Claims 74, 84, 92, 94, and 95 have been amended as follows:

74. (Amended) The coated optical fiber of claim [1] 73, wherein the primary coating is strippable at the temperature upon execution of the force to leave a stripped portion of the optical fiber having a Mill's test value of less than about 2.

84. (Amended) The coated optical fiber of claim 83, wherein said primary coating layer [(b)] further comprises the reaction product of, in addition to the acrylate or methacrylate-terminated oligomer, from about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight of a monomer selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acrylate, isodecyl acrylate, hexanediol diacrylate, phenoxyethyl acrylate, and lauryl acrylate.

92. (Amended) The coated optical fiber of claim 91, wherein **[the oligomer and the one or more monomer diluents are selected such that a mixture of the oligomer and the one or more monomer diluents]** said primary coating is obtained by curing a composition that is liquid at 25° C.

94. (Amended) A method of preparing a coated optical fiber for splicing, the coated optical fiber **[comprising a primary coating coated onto an optical fiber]** being a coated optical fiber according to claim 73, comprising the steps of:

stripping the primary coating away from a portion of the optical fiber at a temperature in at least a portion of the temperature range from about 25° to about 125° C. by cutting with a blade into the primary coating, then having the blade exert a force on the primary coating in a direction parallel to the optical fiber to force the primary coating away from the portion of the optical fiber, and optionally wiping the portion of optical fiber from which primary coating has been forced away with an alcohol laden piece of cloth or paper, such that the stripped portion exhibits little or no residue of the primary coating.

95. (Amended) A method of splicing coated optical fibers comprising, preparing

two optical fibers for splicing according to the method of claim [95] 94;
aligning the stripped portions of the prepared optical fibers; and
joining the stripped portions of the prepared optical fibers.